

the FDA to do its job as well. We need the FDA to pass a T-cell test so we can go back and see if these soldiers who became ill after this event—to see if, indeed, this was from the COVID-19 virus.

Certainly, the timeline, by all accounts, is going backward every month, but I think it is time to update the American public, too, on what I feel are the lab origins of this virus. Certainly, this is just a theory, but I think we need to look into and discover and talk more about the biological origin of this virus.

This is a model of COVID-19, the virus that has killed millions of people across the world. It looks very much like the original SARS virus, with an exception, and that exception is a protein spike. The protein spike that I am talking about is composed of two units. We will call those two units S-1 and S-2, and this is a model of that COVID-19 protein spike. It is very special. It is very unique.

Let's talk about the S-1 spike just for a second. The S-1 spike looks very similar—it looks exactly like viral gain-of-function research that was conducted between a lab in North Carolina and with Dr. Shi, the “bat lady” from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That S-1 spike sticks to lung cells like glue. Again, this is NIH-funded research, the North Carolina lab, and the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

What we did is we took the basic, original SARS virus, and we slapped a protein spike on it that made it stick to human cells like glue. Think of it as being like a key in a lock. Think about, if you have a human cell as the lock, that there needs to be a special key. So they invented a special key that would impact and go into only human cells. That was done in about 2015, but then, after that, things go dark. We don't know what happened, but, somehow, this COVID-19 virus has another part of this protein spike, and we will call it the S-2 unit.

The theory is that, in the Wuhan Institute of Virology and, possibly, in the Wuhan CDC Lab, further research was done. They developed a special part of this spike—again, the S-2 unit. This is what is so special about it: It has what we call a furin cleavage site. The furin cleavage site is—and don't take it from me; take it from Nobel Laureate Dr. David Baltimore.

Dr. Baltimore said that the furin cleavage site with its double arginine codon—and I am paraphrasing here—is the smoking gun for the lab origin of the virus in that this double arginine codon just doesn't occur in nature and that only human cells have the ability to use that furin cleavage site and break this into two separate units. That is what allows this virus to dump its genetic material into human lung cells and replicate.

As a physician, as a person who has studied virology a bit, this protein spike just doesn't look like it comes from nature. Everything about it

would suggest that it was made in a laboratory. It is just too mean. It is too angry. It is just too perfect. It is too infectious. The unique thing about it is, though some would make us believe that this virus comes from bats, this virus doesn't like bats.

It only took American scientists and Chinese scientists 4 months to discover the origin of the original SARS virus, that it came from a bat and then it went to another animal, an intermediate host. It only took us 4 months to discover that virus. The MERS virus, on the other hand, it took us about 9 months. Here we are 18 months later, and we don't have any type of an intermediate host. All of the mapping that we are seeing points to this virus being made in a laboratory.

Now, the Wuhan lab could disprove me. They have the data to prove me wrong, but I am afraid that the data is now gone. It is gone forever—most likely destroyed—unless, of course, we can find it in a cloud somewhere.

It is outrageous that a comprehensive investigation on the origins of COVID-19 has still not been carried out. Now, I am proud that this body passed a resolution that Senator GILLIBRAND and I put together that calls for a transparent investigation of the COVID-19 outbreak, mandated by the World Health Assembly. It unanimously passed this body, and that resolution demands a full and transparent investigation to include the United States and our allies and our partners around the world.

Now, it is time for the Senate to do our job. It is time for the Senate to fully investigate the origins of this virus as well. It would be utterly irresponsible to suffer through the worst pandemic in a century and not have the origins fully investigated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING JAMES TIMOTHY “MUDCAT” GRANT, JR.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last week, America lost a baseball legend, a pioneer in civil rights, Jim “Mudcat” Grant.

He joined the Cleveland Indians in 1958. He spent 14 years in the Major Leagues. I remember watching him play when I was a kid growing up in Cleveland in the 1960s.

Cleveland has been, more than any other franchise, perhaps, a pioneer for change in baseball. Cleveland had the first Black player in the American League, Larry Doby, Hall of Famer. He came into the league only about 2 months after Jackie Robinson integrated the National League. Cleveland had the first Black manager, Hall of Famer Frank Robinson. Cleveland also had “Mudcat” Grant, who refused to be silent in the face of segregated hotels and racist slurs and discrimination from management.

Grant was an accomplished singer with a beautiful voice. He organized

the singing group “Mudcat and the Kitchens” to make up the income he was denied that other players had, that White players had, in advertising and endorsements. Companies wouldn't hire a Black player. They toured the country during the off-season, performing with Johnny Carson and in places a little less known.

I remember Grant in later years serving as an announcer for Cleveland Indian games with a southern drawl that was unmistakable.

He didn't just use that voice, though, for entertainment or commentating on plays; he used it to speak out for civil rights.

During the national anthem at one game, predating Colin Kaepernick, Mudcat Grant—in the 1960s, before civil rights and voting rights had passed this Congress, he said this during the national anthem. He said:

This land is not free. I can't even go to Mississippi and sit down at a lunch counter.

A Major League Baseball player.

In 1958, he and his White teammate Gary Bell roomed together for away games, becoming the first time—players, in those days, when they were paid less than management, charged less, whatever, players roomed together. Two players would room together. Gary Bell and Mudcat Grant were the first Black and White roommates in the major leagues in 1958.

While running for President, Senator John F. Kennedy invited Mudcat Grant to breakfast. Grant didn't hold back. He talked openly with Senator Kennedy, with the future President, about the poverty he grew up in, the racism he endured every day—this was 1960—as a Major League Baseball player.

Of course, it wasn't only his activism we remember Mudcat Grant for. We know his talent on the field. He was Minor League's Rookie of the Year in 1954, only 7 years after baseball was integrated.

In 1965, he was the first Black player to win 20 games in the American League. He should have been the first, but listen to this: For years, major league managers conspired to prevent Black pitchers from becoming 20-game winners. That almost doesn't make sense.

Well, Grant said some catchers would tell the hitters, the opposing hitters, while they were catching, what was coming because they didn't want you to do well as a pitcher.

Other managers, when a player was reaching—a pitcher was getting close to 20 games, other managers sat the player down so he couldn't win 20 games as a Black man.

After Black players pass away, we often hear about how they were among the underappreciated talents of the game. That is not a coincidence. In addition to being a singer, Grant was also a writer. He published a book in 2007 called “The Black Aces.” It is about the great African-American pitchers. Part of his project is to tell more stories about Black players and to teach

more people about the history of baseball integration.

It is the kind of stories we need to tell more often. Our country is richer, as the Presiding Officer representing Arizona knows—the country is richer when we tell people's stories.

Let's honor James Timothy Grant, Jr., by telling his story, by heeding his words. In his great poem "Life," James Timothy Grant Jr. wrote:

Life is like a game of baseball, you play it every day. It isn't just the breaks you get, but the kind of game you play.

James "Mudcat" Grant, rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:48 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KATHLEEN S. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. (NEW POSITION)
CELESTE ANN WALLANDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ROBERT STORY KAREM.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DAVID M. UHLMANN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE SUSAN PARKER BODINE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SHARON L. CROMER, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA.

TROY DAMIAN FITRELL, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA.

MARC OSTFIELD, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

KENNETH LEE SALAZAR, OF COLORADO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

JULIANNE SMITH, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

C.B. SULLENBERGER III, OF TEXAS, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.

CYNTHIA ANN TELLES, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

DAVID M. PROUTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2026, VICE WILLIAM J. EMANUEL, TERM EXPIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

GUY T. KIYOKAWA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION), VICE MELISSA SUE GLYNN, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. ANTHONY J. COTTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICHARD G. ADAMS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN D. SKLENKA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 23, 2021:

THE JUDICIARY

DEBORAH L. BOARDMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

ROBIN CARNAHAN, OF MISSOURI, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.